

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Makoto HORIUCHI et al. :
Serial No. New : Attn: Application Branch
Filed February 20, 2002 : Attorney Docket No. 2002-0234

DISCHARGE LAMP AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING THE SAME
(Rule 1.53(b) Divisional
of Serial No. 09/270,004,
Filed March 16, 1999)

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, below the title, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a divisional of Serial No. 09/270,004 filed March 16, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel with prejudice claims 10-30 and 32.

Please amend the claims as follows:

8. (Amended) The discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein mercury is sealed together with the noble gas in the light-emitting portion.

9. (Amended) The discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein a noble gas and a metal halide are sealed in said light-emitting portion.

31. (Amended) A discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein the noble gas is argon gas.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to reflect that this application is a divisional of Serial No. 09/270,004.

This application is directed to the non-elected claims of the parent application, i.e. 1-9 and 31. These claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependancies in order to reduce the PTO filing fee and to eliminate improper multiple dependancies. A marked-up version of the specification and amended claims entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" is attached.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

8. (Amended) The discharge lamp according to [any one of Claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein mercury [are] is sealed together with the noble gas in the light-emitting portion.

9. (Amended) The discharge lamp according to [any one of Claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein a noble gas and a metal halide are sealed in said light-emitting portion.

31. (Amended) A discharge lamp according to [one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1, wherein the noble gas is argon gas.

SPECIFICATION

DISCHARGE LAMP AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME

This application is a divisional of serial No. 09/270,004 filed March 16, 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a long-life discharge lamp and a method of producing the same.

PRIOR ART

At present, discharge lamps, such as high-pressure mercury lamps and metal halide lamps, are used for various applications, and become widespread and indispensable in the modern society. These days, such discharge lamps are expected to have higher performance to be more beneficial in society. In particular, in order to meet the needs for global environmental conservation, producing discharge lamps having longer service lives is a matter expected most anxiously. Under these circumstances, numerous technologies for extending the lives of discharge lamps have been invented so far.

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Generally speaking, in a discharge lamp, a pair of electrodes is sealed in a quartz glass tube, and a discharge space, in which the two electrodes are opposed to each other, is charged with an appropriate noble gas so as to be used as a light-emitting portion. In this light-

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